

CLAIMS

1. A mineplough which comprises at least one blade element which is set at an angle to the general direction of movement of the plough so as to deflect lifted earth to one or both sides of the plough, each said blade element having tines arranged so as to lift earth ahead of that blade element in the direction of travel thereof, depth control means for controlling the depth of cut of the tines and at least two linkages to connect the mineplough to a suitable carrier vehicle therefor, wherein each blade element is comprised of a number of intersecting plates whose planes lie substantially parallel to the said direction of travel and which define open channels therebetween and further wherein each of the linkages contains at least one crushable element capable of absorbing blast energy.
2. A mineplough as claimed in claim 1 wherein the intersecting plates comprise a first set of plates arranged substantially in the vertical plane and a second set of plates arranged substantially at right angles to the first set.
3. A mineplough as claimed in claim 1 wherein the open channels between the plates are of smaller dimension than any mine which the plough is intended to clear.
4. A mineplough as claimed in claim 1 wherein the open channels have a minimum dimension of the order of 150mm.
5. A mineplough as claimed in claim 1 wherein the front face of the blade is covered with a relatively weak material.
6. A mineplough as claimed in claim 5 wherein the relatively weak material is comprised of a thin sheet of metal or a plastics material.
7. A mineplough as claimed in claim 2 wherein the vertically-disposed plates are extended generally downwards and forwards of the blade to form the tines.

8. A mineplough as claimed in claim 7 wherein at least some pairs of adjacent tines are connected together by substantially horizontally disposed bracing members to effect reinforcement of those tines.
9. A mineplough as claimed in claim 1 wherein the at least one crushable element comprises a substantially U-shaped channel member associated with each linkage and arranged so as to absorb any shock transmitted to it by at least partially collapsing.
10. A mineplough as claimed in claim 9 wherein the channel member comprises two separate U-shaped channel pieces arranged such that one lies within the other and becomes effective to absorb shock only once the outer piece has been deformed.